

THE BIG PRINT

THE OTHER NORTH-EAST PAPER

**INSIDE
CLASH
INTERVIEW
OFFSHORE ACTION
CITY CENTRE
DESTRUCTION**

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WESTERTON - NOW PARENTS WANT FUNDS PROBE

Parents of children attending Westerton Primary have called on Grampian Regional Council to hold a further inquiry into the running of Westerton's School Funds. The Funds have been the subject of controversy following teachers' allegations that headmaster Harold Boorer had been misusing the School Funds. Meanwhile the national executive of the E.I.S., the teachers' trade union, have forced the local E.I.S. to drop their demand for a full public enquiry into the management of the Funds.

The Big Print has interviewed several parents of Westerton pupils. To safeguard their children and themselves they have asked us not to reveal their names. One parent told The Big Print: "I think they should look further into the situation. I don't think it's good enough for the Council to say there's no books so they can't look into it further. They should find out what's happened to the money that's been raised. I think the parents should

be involved in the committee that deals with the School Funds. At the school my son used to go to (in Aberdeen), the parents were kept informed of the amount of money raised, and asked what they thought the money raised should be spent on." Another parent said, "It's wrong that the head should have had control of the funds himself and anyone else. If the parents started a petition maybe then something would get done... I'd sign it."



Westerton pupils greet THE BIG PRINT photographer outside their school in Northfield, Aberdeen

Another parent with children at Westerton told us, "I think there should be an inquiry into what's happened. The headmaster should have kept records. We were never told anything about how much was raised or what it was spent on."

Further investigation." Mr. Lennox told us that the local association had changed their policy after being told of the national executive's position. He declined to say what matters were being "further pursued".

Council workers in danger



The debris which fell from the ceiling and floored Council employee Mr. Jack Horne

Aberdeen District Council has been accused of negligence in considering the safety and welfare of their employees by the Aberdeen City District Branch of NALGO in their paper NALGO NEWS, following the Town Sergeant's recent escape from serious injury. As Mr. Jack Horne was changing from his uniform after his evening's work, a large part of the ceiling in the changing room of the Old Town House fell on him, catching him on the shoulder and upper arm. If he had been standing an inch or two the other way, he

could have been seriously injured or even killed. Yet, since the accident the District Council has taken little or no action to authorise the necessary maintenance work to the Town House. Even before the accident, the Council was aware of the dangerous condition of parts of the old section of the Town House. There is urgent need for work to be carried out on the building fabric, and the Factories Inspector, called in after the accident, has presented the Council with a long list of faults, including seri-

ously cracked plaster and defective electrical work. In addition, the Aberdeen City District Branch of NALGO has received no reply to their letter expressing concern at the state of affairs and the working conditions of NALGO members. If the victim had been the Provost would action have been speedier? Or are the council blinded by the gleam from the £17,000 doors on the new Town House?

Bob Middleton, the local regional councillor, has also talked to parents of Westerton pupils. He told The Big Print, "I felt that the feeling of the parents I talked to was that there should be a further investigation."

Union position
When the Westerton teachers and local E.I.S. officials met Gordon Beattie, the executive's national negotiating secretary, on 28th June, Mr. Beattie stated that the Executive's view was that the Westerton issue should be dropped. The teachers should not be concerned with money raised for School Funds.

The Westerton teachers and local E.I.S. officials argued that they wanted a full public inquiry, and said they were very disappointed with the Executive's attitude.

Following the meeting a statement was issued that "Agreement was reached on certain areas of the problem which will be further pursued."

Arthur Lennox, E.I.S. Aberdeen association secretary, told The Big Print, "The official policy of the local association is now in line with national policy - that it deplores the publicity given to the Westerton situation and is not pursuing any

Council meeting
At the Regional Council Education Committee on July 4th, Chief Executive Douglas McNaughton stated that Mr. Boorer had provisionally reported £1,150 worth of facilities bought with the School Funds. But Westerton teachers are not convinced that this figure is accurate, and Councillor Middleton told The Big Print, "I'm not happy about that figure." What's more, teachers estimate that around £1,000 could have been raised in one year of fund-raising at Westerton. Mr. Boorer has been running the School Funds, without keeping any records, for nearly nine years.

Also revealed at the Education Committee was that as long ago as Autumn 1976 Councillor Middleton had asked the Education Department to investigate the running of the Westerton School Funds.

And in the same period the Education Department's auditors expressed concern at the Westerton School Funds set-up following a visit to the school.

The Education Committee heard of a bizarre incident which had occurred at Westerton. When questioned by Councillor Middleton, Committee convener Wilson Stephen admitted that the teachers' letter of complaint had described how, when questioned by teachers about



EDITORIAL

THE BIG PRINT is a monthly local libertarian socialist newspaper, published by a collective of around 10 people who believe there should be an alternative coverage of local issues. We welcome contributions, letters and information and also hope that any other interested people of libertarian socialist views will join with us in producing the paper. PUBLISHED BY THE BIG PRINT, BOX 13, C/O 163 KING ST, ABERDEEN.

it's just offal

If you've only heard about the pong from the Caledonian Fishmeal factory in Tullios, you're lucky. If you've smelt it you'll know why so many people living and working downwind of the factory are so annoyed. People have been sick in the streets; others have moved out of their houses or sent their children to stay with friends or relatives on the other side of Aberdeen; people don't hang out washing when the factory is operating if they don't want it fouled by the stink.

There's been enough said about the smell, the new factory it comes from, and the promises (for example, that there would be no smell) that the Caledonian management made before the plant was built. For the people whose lives are being affected by the stink, the most obvious demand is for the factory to be closed, at least until the smell can be controlled. This is likely to annoy two groups of people (forgetting the Caledonian management and owners), namely the fish merchants, who wouldn't have a convenient dump for their offal if the factory shut down, and the workers at the fishmeal factory, who would lose wages if it was closed down for improvements, and lose their jobs if it closed down for good. In view of this, it's not surprising in this case to hear workers and management saying the same things: "The smell isn't really bad at all", and "Other smells are even worse".

The alternatives open at the moment are - either the factory continues (and several thousand people have to suffer the pollution this causes) or it closes (and the forty or so workers there lose wages, perhaps their jobs). Somebody suffers either way.

The only possible way in which neither residents or workers would suffer would be if they could get together and force on the Caledonian management a solution which neither puts people out of work nor forces local residents to put up with the smell. One such solution would be for the workers to be laid off on full pay while modifications were made to the factory; if it proved impossible to remove the smell and the factory absolutely had to close, residents and workers could force the company to provide the workers with similar jobs elsewhere in the city.

Caledonian Fish Meal Limited is owned by Rank Hovis McDougall: it shouldn't be a difficult matter for such a company to find jobs for forty people.

We're not pretending this is an easy solution. At present such an alliance between local residents and workers seems very far off - today we've got the tragic situation of two groups of working-class people being divided and pitted against each other.

And it will take absolutely massive pressure to force the company to stop production and still keep their workers on full pay. Words won't be enough, direct action action of some kind will be needed.

But if such a campaign were successful, what a victory it would be for putting human needs before private profit. And what's more, it would be a small step towards us having the power to create a totally different kind of society where human needs would always be the first consideration, in industry and elsewhere.

To do this we need to build up the strength of our organisation at work and in the community till eventually we're able to take control of the factories, land, and all the resources away from the big companies and the state and have them belong to everybody, to society as a whole. Then if a situation like at Caledonian Fish Meal did arise, there would be no vested interests wanting the factory to keep on making everybody sick, just to keep profits healthy. There would be no reason why we could not close the factory 'till the problem was sorted out. And the decision would be made directly by those involved - not by so-called "representatives."

We've suggested that today we should fight for the Fish Meal workers to be laid off on full pay or switched to other work if the elimination of the stink needs the temporary (or permanent) closure of the factory. In the libertarian socialist society we're aiming for, people will be able to take the basic things they need to live, food, shelter, clothing etc., free, as a right, because they're human beings. So closing down a polluting factory like the Caledonian Fish Meal wouldn't hurt its workers. If it was a temporary closure, they would take a holiday. If it was permanent, they'd start looking for other jobs. And in the meantime they wouldn't be one bit worse off materially.

Creating such a society will be an immense task. But we can take steps towards controlling our own lives today. Caledonian Fish Meal is not going to be the last noxious factory proposed to be put near a residential part of Aberdeen. The Fish Meal factory was built at Tullios, rather than out in the country, because it cut transport costs for fish merchants and for the factory owners. The decision to give planning permission for the Tullios site was made not by the local residents, but by the District Councillors - who in

SMALL PRINT

daft

When the District Council Planning and Building Control Committee met on 24th August there were many grave expressions of concern from our councillors about the situation at the pong producing Caledonian Fish Meal factory.



MOVE TO RUBISLAW - THERE'S NO SMELL THERE!

The expressions of sympathy from two of our representatives however were aimed in a rather surprising direction. The most impassioned speeches from Dick "Shove" Gallagher (CON. Ashley) and Bob Anderson (CON. Fernielea) were not at all deplored the plight of the pong suffering folk of Torry. No, what deeply disturbed Dick and Bob was the criticisms being made of the Fish Meal Company's management.

"The management, the management," spluttered Dick. "Councilor Twine keeps criticising the management. This is completely wrong. The breakdowns are a technical question - not the managements fault at all."

"The management over there are bending over backwards. They're doing their damndest," Bob earnestly assured the Committee. "Don't knock them. They've already spent £4 million. Should they have to spend another £4 million? It's just not practical. These people have to work within the limits of normal business practice."

rank

So blinking back our tears, The Big Print set out to look a bit more deeply into the "normal business practice" of the much maligned Caledonian Fish Meal Co. (Aberdeen) Ltd.

between elections are not in the least mandated by the views of the people who elected them. The next time they propose to put some noxious factory in the middle of where people are living, we will have to be prepared. We must bring in our own, genuinely independent, experts and not trust company PR men. We must insist that our needs for a clean healthy environment come before the needs of capitalists to cut costs. We must insist that it is our city and we're going to decide whether we're to have a factory on our doorstep or not, and no-one else.

They are, we discovered, a subsidiary of Rank Hovis McDougall. In this they are not unique. In fact R. H. M. have approximately 160 subsidiary companies in around 17 different countries. The same people who give you the Torry Pong also bring you "Mothers Pride" and "Hovis" bread, Mr Kiplings Cakes, McDougalls and Be-Ro flour, and (Ah!) Bisto. In addition to being giants in flour, grocery, and bakery products R.H.M. have substantial interest in animal feed stuffs and fertilisers - in the north east, as well as owning Caledonian Fish Meal, Rank Hovis McDougall control R.H.M. Agriculture (Caledonian) Ltd.

AH! FISHMEAL



Yes, with net assets of only £403,272,000 behind them it would obviously be unreasonable to expect Caledonian Fish Meal to put themselves to much more expense, just to stop a few thousand people choking to death.

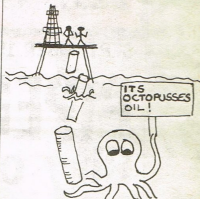
Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defence have yet to officially confirm the reports that they are investigating the potential of The Stench as the latest development in gas warfare.

bizarre

Tales have reached THE BIG PRINT of some recent bizarre happenings on the Thistle 'A' oil platform.

Work was being undertaken on the laying of a pipeline to the Dunlin field. The winch operator, making routine checks in preparation for lowering some pipes to the sea bed, was being urged by his American boss to get a move on. However the operator discovered a fault in the equipment, and informed the boss that the winch brake was broken. To his astonishment he was ordered to hurry up and start the operation. He protested that it was impossible without the brake, but this was only greeted by even more adamant orders to stop messing about and get started.

So, resignedly, he started the winch - and an estimated £100,000 worth of equipment plunged at great speed to the sea bed.



Divers, not the lowest paid workers offshore, had to spend some considerable time recovering it.

A story to remember the next time the bar-room bore tells you that industry couldn't possibly be controlled by the workers because we need bosses of special knowledge and skill to direct operations.....

dumb

Meanwhile another story from Thistle 'A' should reassure offshore workers about the efficiency of the offshore installations' safety vessels, which some uncharitable souls have suggested are frequently nothing more than clapped-out old trawlers.



In a recent training exercise for the safety vessel serving Thistle 'A', the "Man Overboard" signal was sounded and a dummy figure heaved over the side of the platform. With admirable speed and efficiency the safety boat started up its engines first time, steamed flat out towards the dummy - and sailed right over the top of it, slicing it neatly in two.

HOGGER'S ON HOLIDAY!

Dear Suckers,
Having a grand time in South Africa. This is my sort of place! My last venture paid off nicely. Curses on all at the Smokeworks!
Hogger



Big Print
c/o 163 King St
Aberdeen

FAIRPLAY IN RENT MUDDLE ?

THE FOLLOWING LETTER AND ARTICLE ILLUSTRATE ONE OF THE PITFALLS OF THE "FAIR RENTS SYSTEM" AND WHY IT'S USEFUL TO KNOW WHAT YOUR RIGHTS ARE, EVEN IF IT MEANS YOU'VE GOT TO GO AND DIG OUT THE ANSWERS.

A Reader Writes

Dear Big Print,
First of all I must state I enjoyed your June edition of The Big Print. However I would like to correct one small error in your statement on page 5, that the rent tribunal can "fix" a fair rent. Let me tell you the following story and you will understand what I mean.

Mr A, a fair and reasonable landlord, discussed an increase in rent with a tenant Mrs B, a widow. It was agreed that the increase would be £100 and did she wish to appeal? Naturally Mrs B did not appeal, as far as she was considered the matter was settled.

Mrs B then received a letter from the rent tribunal that her rent was to be increased by £200! Her first reaction was that a mistake had been made, and she duly got in touch with the rent tribunal officer, Mr R. C. Mitchell. She received a very curt letter stating that was to be the increase of her rent. This is where I was called in to help the lady, an old friend of my mother.

I first checked all the details. I then wrote to Mr R. Hughes, MP and complained about the high-handed attitude of the rent officer. He pursued the matter further, taking it up with Mr Hugh Brown, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, but with no success.

Now here is the flaw. The procedure is very obscure. When the landlord applied for the cancellation of the existing rent he should also have included a Joint Declaration Form by both landlord and tenant. It would then be the duty of the rent officer to register the agreed rent. And because Mrs B had not submitted with her landlord this Joint Declaration Form (and here I quote Mr Brown) "she had appealed against the increase of £100.

Therefore the rent tribunal was free to set the rent. Naturally I protested on behalf of Mrs B on the grounds that she NEVER at any time appealed against the increase of £100, and

that her silence was due to the fact she had agreed to the figure. Mr Brown refused to agree and maintained that as no Joint Declaration Form on an agreed rent had been submitted the rent officer could do as he liked.

Now you would think that would be the end of the matter. But I am sorry to say it was not. The rent officer, Mr Mitchell was so "bloody minded" that he now considered that all the inquiries etc were an appeal against the new figure of £200, and not the original figure of £100. The bastard upped the figure by another £30.

Since this incident I have learned of seven friends who have been confused because of their ignorance of this Joint Declaration Form.

I suggest that you will do your readers a favour if you spotlight this problem. Of course I feel it is the duty of the government, or the local council, to make this procedure public. But then they shelter behind the statement that that "it is all made clear in the RENT ACT". However it is sickening that the rent officer can exploit people's ignorance of the law.

Fairplay.

PS!

PS A friend of mine has asked me to include this statement about Mr Boorer, Headmaster of Westerton School.

The reason for the "soft approach" is that the E.I.S. is controlled by Head Teachers, and what we are witnessing is a closing of ranks by head teachers to protect one of their own.

It was these same head teachers/E.I.S. officials who "blew the gaff" to the education authority.

I have also been asked to suggest that you contact Mr Stanley Allan, Grammar Academy, who is the E.I.S. rep. and find out what he is doing about the teachers who are being victimised. That should be interesting.

NOTE: The Big Print regrets that, because of the law of libel, we have had to delete a small part of the above letter which referred to Mr Boorer's alleged misuse of the Westerton School Funds.

The BIG PRINT Investigates

The Big Print contacted Mr R. C. Mitchell, the Rent Officer, and asked him if the facts of the case outlined by "Fairplay" were indeed correct. He told us "I can't give any clarification unless you can give me the name of the tenant or the address of the property. We deal with hundreds of cases here".

However Mr Mitchell did outline to us the Rent Registration Services attitude to the general issues raised by the case "Fairplay" describes. He told the Big Print "It is the duty of the Rent Officer to fix a fair rent. If a landlord makes an application to increase a registered rent by a certain amount, and we thought the property merited a higher rent, then we could put the rent up by more than the figure asked for by the landlord. Even if the landlord and the tenant put in a Joint application form for an increased rent, if we thought the flat or house merited it we could still put up the figure above the increase they had agreed on.

However the landlord could charge less than the registered rent. There's nothing to stop him doing that - but he couldn't charge more than the registered rent.

If a landlord and a tenant entered into a special rent agreement then we would register that figure even if it was less than the fair rent. To do this the landlord and tenant would have to visit the Rent Registration Service and draw up the appropriate statement."

So, the message seems to be - if your rent is registered and the landlord wants to make an increase to which you are agreeable then go to the Rent Registration Service with your landlord to have a special rent agreement drawn up.

But in Mrs B's case, if her landlord Mr A really is "fair and reasonable" then there's absolutely nothing to stop him only charging Mrs B the original agreed increase of £100. A landlord is free to charge less than the registered rent - but he can't charge more.

One thing's for sure - they don't make it easy for us to know and understand our rights! For advice on housing contact SHELTER, 48 Marischal St., (Tel. 53586) or St. Katherine's Welfare Rights Service, 5 West North Street, (Tel. 25189).

The Rent Registration Service (or Rent Tribunal) is at 47 Holburn St. (Tel. 25288).

Protest over racist film

Anti-apartheid campaigners greeted cinema-goers to the Odeon on Monday 28th August with leaflets, placards and banners proclaiming their opposition to the film "Wild Geese".

"The object of the exercise is to inform people that the events shown on the screen are not true, and are a racist picture of South Africa," Pablo Robertson, a spokesman for the protesters, told The Big Print. There were around 50 people involved in the picket, including members of the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign and the University Anti-Apartheid Society.



Anti-apartheid campaigners picket 'Wild Geese' at the Odeon.

Following, Pablo Robertson outlines in more detail the reasons behind the protest.

South Africa has always been quick to use all available outlets to spread propaganda about their racist regime. Suddenly the usual stories in the capitalist press have been overtaken by a new development in 'persuasion' - the multi-million pound feature film.

The "Wild Geese" stars Richard Burton and Roger Moore, has a title song sung by Joan Armatrading(!) and is showing at the Odeon, Aberdeen for all of the week starting the 28th. It cost £12 million to make and was shot on location in South Africa with

men in "Zulu" except that these rebels charge at airplanes instead of white-held barricades.

The book upon which the film is based was written by a soldier who serves in Ian Smith's Rhodesian Arm and the profit from the film's world premiere, in South Africa, was given to the South African Defence Fund which fuels the regime's army. That same army murdered 1,000 Nambians in Angola last May. The producers and stars of this film have blood on their hands.

We are asking people to boycott the film - we hope it will have a short stay in Aberdeen.

OSSCO SIGNED UP

Organisation among catering workers on the oil rigs and platforms continues to grow. OSSCO Services employees have voted for union recognition, and the National Union of Seamen reports great success from their current leafletting campaign aimed at offshore catering workers.

N.U.S. branch secretary Harry Bygate told THE BIG PRINT, "We have had difficulty in communications with offshore workers in

the past, but we are now succeeding in getting the leaflets through to the workers on the rigs and platforms." The N.U.S. leaflet states through union organisation the workers will be able to bargain for improved wages and conditions and end unfair disciplinary actions by employers.

OSSCO and union representatives are meeting on September 14th. to discuss the implications of the OSSCO employees "YES" vote in the ballot on union recognition.

Racist Attack In City

The police have not yet found the youths and have stated that they consider it unlikely that they will do so.

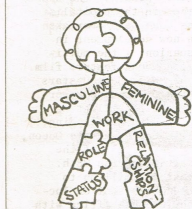
Surprisingly, the incident has not been reported in the local press. "A reporter from the Evening Express came along to interview me but there hasn't been anything in the paper about it," the attack victim told us.

FIGHT



"This racist attack could be the tip of the iceberg," Councillor George Grant told THE BIG PRINT. "My main point is that we've got to get the arguments against racism across before this sort of thing gains a hold. We do have a number of people from overseas staying in Aberdeen and I think on the whole they en-

We spent a little time talking about the traditional established gay group in Aberdeen-Scottish Minorities Group. We have often commented upon the fact that in our campaigns we have tended to get more support from the heterosexual left than from gay people. However, recently we have begun to wonder just how reliable



this support is. Since the campaign for getting Gay News in the library, our activities have involved us going outside Aberdeen to take part in events elsewhere. For this we need money, but our fund-raising activities have been poorly supported. I am beginning to think that if we do something exciting, which takes people on to the streets collecting signatures for a petition or picketing a pub and getting press coverage, then our supporters are there (and don't get me wrong we do need and appreciate that support) but if we do something a little quieter that involves less obvious 'commitment', but more encouragement (and financial outlay) then we're on our own.

joy harmonious relations with local people. We don't want to get into the position of some cities in England such as Leeds where there have been race riots."

If the poisonous and divisive beliefs of racism did gain the strength in Aberdeen that they have in certain areas down south the situation would indeed be serious. In cities such as London, Leeds and Bradford the catalogue of violence includes the following: Violent attacks, including shootings, on blacks, Asians, and whites who have coloured friends, or who are anti-racists - such assaults have resulted in many extremely serious injuries and several deaths. Firebombings of shops run by Asians or blacks and of the premises of organisations who oppose racism. Letter bombs being sent to anti-racists. Racist mobs attacking pubs known to be frequented by blacks, Asians, or anti-racists.

We shouldn't think Scotland is immune to racist violence. In Edinburgh there have been several firebombings of Asian shops.

Only if we oppose racism wherever it appears - from the racist remark in the pub to the National Front leafletting of schools - can we ensure that our lives will be free of racist thuggery.

The party on the Saturday evening was intended partly intended to raise money to cover the cost of the food, but also to provide a social occasion for the visitors (although only one was left by then) and a pleasant atmosphere in which our supporters could get together and socialise

The discussion on paedophilia provoked a total of three people (other than the seven of us) to give up their Sunday afternoons. Although the subject bears little relevance to the economic class struggle it does raise questions of children's liberation and sexual liberation, which I think relevant to everyone (although I know that a lot of heterosexual adults would not agree.)



I don't like to think of support in terms of exchange and barter, but I would like to point out that we try and support other groups as much as possible although the more discouraged we become the less inclined we are to do so. And in case anybody thinks we're so together and so close to liberation that we don't need support, I would like to say quite clearly that we're not and we do.

News from Everywhere



Test-tube babies

Last month saw the birth of the world's second 'test-tube' baby, here in Britain.

It's remarkable of course because she started life in a slightly different way to other humans. Although details of the technique have not yet been released, the egg was fertilised outside the womb and allowed to grow for about two and a half days until it became a ball of cells about the size of the full stop at the end of this sentence. This was then transplanted back into the lining of the womb with the help of hormones.

More importantly though is the fact that she will be a wanted baby and this technique will mean that women who desperately want children and can't have them because of blocked fallopian tubes, will be able to, presumably without problems. It will also allow lesbians to have children without the necessity of sexual intercourse.

This makes a change because there are many unwanted babies who are born to reluctant mothers despite the fact that the technique for terminating pregnancies (artificial abortion) has been available for a long time.

But conclusions drawn from a recent Internal Bulletin of the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science warn against considering this latest advancement in complete isolation from other experiments, which have not been so well publicised.

One thing is clear, there is absolutely nothing morally wrong with the 'test-tube' baby. The dangers will stem from its possible misuse (even if it is 'well-intentioned').

Recent research in genetic engineering (called recombinant genetics) will soon make it possible to alter the human genes. The 'test-tube' baby means that the genes in the human egg cell will be accessible to 'gene surgery' before conception. This could be helpful for alleviating the suffering of individuals who would otherwise inherit, say, thalassemia.

But will it be possible to draw a line between this obvious therapeutic use and its mis-use, on a larger scale, for breeding 'super-fit' humans tailor-made for the 'master race'?

And if so, who will decide where to draw it?

Asian released

Mr. Saieed Rahman was the first of an estimated 23 Asians and Africans at present being detained in Armlay Prison under the immigration laws, to be released on August 2nd. And this was only after mass pressure. Before his arrest Mr. Rahman was deputy convenor at Thomas Burnley's factory in Bradford where he led a strike for higher

wages.

The 1971 Immigration Act allows no bail, no trial and no appeal before they are deported.

The campaign against the deportations is supported by the Indian Workers' Association, Bradford and Wakefield Trades Council and local branches of the Anti-Nazi League.

Leeds Other Paper

Nottingham Tories

The activities of Nottingham Tory Council won't do much to dissuade disillusioned Labour voters from plumping for the 'lesser evil' again in the coming general election.

The closure of Nottingham Area Project (NAP) is only the most recent in a series of moves by the Tory Council in Nottingham to harass all community and minority groups.

The Management Committee say that since the Conservatives have come to power there has been a constant harassment of tenants' groups, community groups and projects, women's groups, ethnic groups and other minorities.

The 118 Resource Centre used by over 60 voluntary groups and which provided a printing service for community papers and leaflets, posters for fund-raising, as well as a specialised information service for all the groups, will have to close.

This appears to be one of many cases being reported throughout the country of councils clashing with the community organisations in their areas.

People's News Service

Rough Ride in Rome

A chance crowd of passengers on the number 85 bus in Rome found themselves with a hysterical policeman waving a gun at them.

After an affray a young plainclothes policeman pulled out his pistol and pointed it at one of the passengers' heads. He then threatened to shoot everyone on the bus. Only after being approached by the bus-driver and conductor did the policeman finally agree to put the pistol back in its holster.

The passengers then demanded that the policeman be taken to the nearest police station.

Later the young policeman tried to say he was sorry. But as one witness said, "Excuses are not enough."

What right has he got, just because he is a policeman, to threaten people with a gun?"

People's News Service

GAA

Caroline Aine, who attended the recent Gay Activists Conference, reports:-

While I think those of us who were involved in organising the conference enjoyed it, we were nevertheless disappointed, particularly by the turnout for the three events.

The actual conference was on Saturday 19th August. Only two representatives arrived from Edinburgh, which meant that there were only nine people present. As seven of these were Aberdeen members, the discussion revolved mainly around the situation in Aberdeen. Our main problem at the moment is the fragmentation of the so-called 'gay community' in Aberdeen, and in particular the gap (which sometimes seems insurmountable) between us 'activists' and the large number of non-active gays who frequent the gay bars and discos. We all agreed that we should do all we can to change their opinion of us that we are an elitist, closed group whose activities bear little relevance to them.

